Newspaper Item

SEVENTEENTH BIRD CALENDAR
SENT IN BY PROF. HERRICK.

The period from December to March, 1920-21, has closely paralleled the phenomenal winter of 1918-19, which was the mildest known to our weather records. Like the winter of two years ago, the one that just passed has been characterized by temperatures never below 16-18 degrees, a frost-line of about 5 or 6 inches, precipitation in the form of snow somewhat greater than in 1918-19, but seldom covering the ground for more than a few days, and only once to a depth of 4 to 6 inches; no severe ice-storms, and no severe or prolonged blizzards. The wind has never held long from the north, but unlike the season of two years ago the southerly component of storms has been less marked, the winds seldom prevailing long and dying at southerly points.

The effect upon bird-life of the mild season just past, has been remarkably similar to that of two years ago, namely (1), in reducing the number of winter birds, or winter visitors from the north mainly, and (2), by slightly accelerating the northward advance of the spring-line, and with this the northern movement of our migratory summer residents. The dearth of winter visitors was undoubtedly due to the abundance and stability of the food supplies of such birds far to the north of us, for a mild season has prevailed over the entire continent of North America as well as over the entire Eastern sections of Europe. Not only have fewer Tree Sparrows and Juncos been noted on the Heights than usual, but far fewer residents like tits, creepers, woodpeckers, jays and cardinals, a fact probably attributable to the wide and relatively even distribution of the natural food supply, the crumbs and scraps of food to be found about the homes of men have been less in demand.

In the following table are given the first records of individual Robins, Bluebirds, and Song Sparrows noted in this immediate region for the two mild seasons referred to:

Season	Robin	Bluebird	Song Sparrow
1918-19	Feb. 14	Mar. 2	Feb. 14
1920-21	Feb. 16	Mar. 8	Feb. 16

This record is for Cleveland Heights. The records for the four seasons of greatest snow and cold since 1909, as given last year, showed a variation for the robin of 18 days – March 1-18; of the bluebird of 18 days – February 27, March 16; and of the Song Sparrow of 16 days – March 1-16. Such data give added support to the theory that our summer resident birds which are migrants from the south, follow closely the spring-line, which is also their "food-line", moving with it as it advances northward. Any condition which checks the advance of this line by reducing the available supply of food at any point, automatically retards the stream of migration at that point.

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1. Cardinal; February 27, Lakewood, 2 males, Mr. W.R.Bryant; few reported during the winter.
2. White-bellied Nuthatch; February 20, Forest Hill, E.Cleveland, Mr. Henry Turner Bailey; but seldom reported during the winter.
3. Blue Jay; infrequently reported; and very few seen in Cleveland Heights.
4. Junco; lesss common than usual this winter.
5. Screech Owl; but few seen in winter.
6. Sparrow Hawk; January 1, one seen at St. Clair Ave. by Prof.Hulme
7. Loggerhead Shrike; reported but once, February 13, 82nd St. Cleveland, Mr. Henry Turner Bailey.
8. Robin; February 16, Lee Rd.(one) Cleveland Heights, Francis Ginn; February 17, Oak Rd., Cleveland Heights, Mrs. Finfrock and Mary Ellen Finfrock; February 22, Rocky River (three) Mr. W.R.Bryant; Miss Emily Bohm (one); Wade Park (one) Henry Turner Bailey; February 27, Hessler Rd.(one male)Professor Hulme; February 28, Adelbert College Campus, (one) Mrs. Spencer and Mr. Bean.
9. Song Sparrow; February 16, Noble Rd., one heard, Mrs. Kendel and Rev. Dr. Simons; February 18-19, Noble Rd., singing and becoming abundant; March 32, Wade Park, Miss Wells.
10. Meadow Lark; March 2, Noble Rd., singing; March 5, Lee Rd., Cleveland Heights, Professor Finfrock; March 10, Ford Field, between Abbington and Adelbert Roads, Donald Hulme.
11. Bluebird; March 6, Wade Park, Miss Garritt; March 8, Cleveland Heights, Professor Finfrock; March 11, 3 males and 1 female, Wade Park, Professor Hulme. Reported by Mr. Myers at Euclid Village on February 19.
12. Bronzed Grackle; March 6 (4) Adelbert College Campus, Professor Kindred; March 6, Oak Rd., Cleve. Hts., Prof. Finfrock, March 7, Hessler R., Prof. Hulme.
13. American Crow; February 10, (about) Cleveland, Prof. Hulme; February 15, Noble Rd., Cleveland Heights, commonly heard or seen thereafter.
14. Killdeer; March 13, Shaker Lakes (1) and Hessler Rd., (1). Prof. Hulme.
15. Fox Sparrow; March 13, (several one singing) Shaker Lakes, Professor Hulme.
16. Black-capped Titmouse; seldom reported during winter; March 13, Shaker Lakes, Professor Hulme.
17. Marsh Hawk; March 12, Shaker Lakes, Professor Hulme.
18. Canada Geese; March 13, towards evening, flock of 12 to 15, Shaker Lakes, Professor Hulme.
19. Flicker; March 19, Ford Field; (1) Donald Hulme.
20. Towhee; March 19, (1) Shaker Lakes, Professor Hulme.
21. Red-wing Blackbird; March 19, Shaker Lakes (1 male), Professor Hulme.

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